



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Lake Shelbyville Boat Rafting Policy

Lake Shelbyville – In 2007, Lake Shelbyville had more boating accidents than any body of water in Illinois including the Chicago area of Lake Michigan with three water-related fatalities. Since 2008, Lake Shelbyville has been one of the bodies of water in Illinois that has had the fewest number of boating accidents. The implementation of the boat rafting policy and increased boat patrol were the main differences. These changes helped ensure a safer and more family friendly environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police, local law enforcement, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other agencies on the Lake Shelbyville Water Safety Task Force Team recently evaluated the policy. This policy is considered final and will stay in place until certain circumstances require the task force team to reevaluate it. The Lake Shelbyville Boat Rafting Policy is as follows:

1. Up to five boats allowed in a raft without requiring a special use permit. For the purposes of this policy a raft is defined as two or more boats tied together.
2. No more than 50 people will be allowed on any raft of boats that consists of five boats or less.
3. Required distance between each raft of boats is 150 feet.
4. Special Use Permit, which is free of charge, will be required for a raft of boats that consist of more than five boats and up to 20 boats.

- A permit can be requested at least three days in advance if it can be returned by fax to the permit holder and requested at least seven days in advance if it must be returned by mail to the permit holder. A permit can be requested no more than 30 days in advance. Five requests can be put on the same permit as long as they are all in a 30 day period. A primary and an alternate rafting location can be chosen when applying for a permit.

- No more than four persons per boat will be allowed for each additional boat over five. For example eight boats in a raft would be limited to a total of 62 persons in a raft.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ST LOUIS DISTRICT – LAKE SHELBYVILLE

RR 4, Box 128B, Shelbyville, IL 62565
<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Shelbyville>

- Life jackets are to be worn at all times on rafts greater than five boats unless person is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

- Everyone in the water associated with a raft greater than five boats must have a US Coast Guard approved properly fitted life jacket or Type IV throwable device in their personal possession at all times.

- Kegs containing alcoholic beverages or portable PA systems are not allowed.

A special use permit can be obtained by visiting or calling the Lake Shelbyville Project Office at 217-774-3951 ext. 1. The office is located on the east end of the Lake Shelbyville Main Dam off of IL Route 16 east of Shelbyville and a rafting permit can be obtained Monday – Friday 8a.m. to 4p.m. Information needed for the permit is name, address, and phone number of person requesting permit, number of boats in the raft, location on Lake Shelbyville where boats will be rafted (primary and alternate location), date(s) when boats will be rafted, and state registration number and owner or operator of every boat in the raft.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Lake Shelbyville Boat Rafting Policy contact the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Assistance Department by calling 217-774-3951 ext 3.